

PAC GENERAL MEETING

November 18, 2009

Executive in Attendance: Rhylin Bailie, Lynne Vidler, Ann Einstein, Siva Ramesh, Selina Pirmohamed, Keith Chong, Shannon Derksen

Regrets: Nandita Narayan, Abby Wong, Zena Kwan, Denise Hayhurst, Jen Mezei

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of general meeting minutes from September 2009: Ann Einstein 1st, Selina Pirmohamed 2nd – motion carried.
- Approval of general meeting minutes from October *with the addition of this year's appointments to the executive: Ann Einstein 1st, MaryAnn Giardini 2nd - motion carried.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Lynne Vidler

- Speaker survey: sent home a survey got good response from parents – got 50 forms back. There was interest in all topics presented. Top 5 parent picks: supporting your child's learning, raising confident boys and girls (different learning models), raising your children to become capable adults, teaching kids the value of money & drug and alcohol awareness.
- Received a few suggestions on new topics: raising healthy kids, getting kids active, teaching methods and academic progress at Seaforth, sensory integration and learning (DPAC is looking at), Virtues Project, full-day kindergarten, and output learning issues (DPAC).
- Upcoming speakers: December, DPAC hosting a Gifted Children presentation Dec 1st – at Seaforth. **ACTION ITEM (unassigned): Clarification on scope of this presentation was requested – can be put into the flyer that goes out.**
- The plan for future speakers is to concentrate on top 5 parent picks, hope to get all done. Popular presentations that require longer than an hour to cover can occur outside of the PAC meetings, other presentations can occur in conjunction with meetings. The bigger presentations will be advertised and opened to the district.

Fundraising update

John Kaplan magic show

- Quite popular and can bring in a lot of money, but we are not going to host this show this year, as we already have the Carnival (overlap of event types).

Spiral science classes

- 8 weeks long, after school program with classes for K to 3 and grade 4 to 7's. Lynne is checking references on these guys right now; we can make a profit after 6 kids enroll.
- Selina Pirmohamed pointed out that we already have an affiliation with Mad Science – Keith says we have used them in the past – e.g. Terrific Tuesdays, Spirit day, etc. Seaforth pays Mad Science – they provide various services to school. Selina suggests seeing if Mad Science could help us fundraise. Spiral is afterschool, Mad Science is during school. Approach Mad Science first because we already know them. If they don't do the after school, we can approach Spiral

- Spiral will give us time to gauge level of interest, Spiral is okay with waiting. **ACTION ITEM: Keith to get in touch with Mad Science to see if they have a fundraising / after-school option.**

Coffee Mugs

- We propose to add mugs on to Grade 7 orders forms for Spirit Wear. Minimum 72 must be bought. Can buy regular ones for \$2.20 each and sell for \$5, stainless steel for \$10 and we sell for \$15. Rhylin asks for feedback. **Budget mug takes the majority with 5 votes.** Regarding stainless steel mugs, someone felt the price was too low. For the budget mugs – price could depend on quality – Rhylin said they are very basic but she will confirm with the vendor that the mugs don't get too hot when being heated. Most people thought \$5 is good price.
- What should mug say? Suggestion: contest to get children to design some art or a catch phrase to go on mug. Can give a prize to the winner. Keith mentioned that we ordered mugs a few years back and put the following phrase on them: *You make a difference at Seaforth Elementary* (we gave away to presenters). The suppliers usually don't do graphics, but they allow a certain number of lines of text (Keith). **ACTION ITEM: Rhylin to check with our vendor (1 color max, how much text, how much will you donate?).** Grades 7's deadline: want final order before Christmas. **PAC needs to have an announcement for the 'catch phrase contest' for the mugs ready by Friday and then make the deadline something like Nov. 27th for entries.**

- General question was asked --- why PAC is fundraising and selling? Answer: we lost \$5000 from gaming grant and our donations are lower this year. We don't want to go door-to-door but if there is a non-offensive, good fundraiser idea --- we will do this. E.g. family movie night.
- Question: are we selling umbrellas? Good idea – tack it on to spirit wear order. Type of umbrella? **ACTION ITEM – Rhylin will check into past supplier.** Seaforth sold umbrellas 2-3 yrs ago.

Renting out popcorn machine

- Popcorn sales are really good: we spend 22 cents per bag, selling for a dollar.
- Another school wants to rent our machine. It will bring us money, but there is the risk of damage. No one thinks we should rent out machine (voted, 0 votes for renting out).

TREASURER'S REPORT (Abby Wong by email, read by Rhylin Bailie)

- The Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for October 2009 for both the General Operating Gaming Fund accounts are attached for review.
- The Gaming account is being audited.
- As of Oct 31st 2009 the bank balance for the General Operating account is \$20,646.47, Gaming Fund account \$2,090.52.
- We received donations totaling \$8,665 as of Nov. 15th, an increase of \$1,140 from the last reporting date of Oct. 15. Last year, total donation was \$11, 200. We have 530 students this year and the donation works out to be \$16.35 per student.
- Popcorn sales were \$386 for October.
- The bullying Prevention workshop on Nov 2 had 46 parents in attendance – we raised \$200 for PAC.
- Hot lunch - \$885.25 in payments were received in early November.

- We registered two seats for the fall conference of the BC Confederation of PAC. We paid \$570 and will probably receive \$427.50 reimbursement from DPAC.
- Paid out so far: \$1500 guest performances, \$2500 resource support
- We are not that bad this year – we are less than last year though. We had a goal of \$30 per student. Funds raised through donations go directly to classrooms, teachers decide how to use funds, field trips etc. PAC-raised funds are spent at the PAC's direction, right now focusing on technology and the earthquake container
- Gift cards: \$10,000 so far – 4% average profit = 400 dollars – lots of time and effort for these cards. Lunch ladies do so much already, maybe this isn't necessary.
- BCCPAC conference – several of us went to this and they will report back. Jen Mezei went to many talks.
- Earthquake container: food water and shelter essentials being bought.
- Any questions about treasury – no.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Keith Chong

- Keith's agenda to be posted ahead of time. Waiting for email list to be ready. Agenda will be emailed out and put in newsletter.
- Email list is slow because school secretary is waiting for families to respond.

Snow plan:

- Concern about build up on sidewalks and roads around Seaforth.
- City of Burnaby has re-looked at what can be done for schools. They raised the priority of roads and walkways to schools – we are now ahead of bus stops – a plan is in place – all Burnaby schools have it. There are even sub-priorities within the school area: major access points such as front entrances and main roads will be done first.
- Keith didn't photocopy the plan because it's color coded – it's in his office if anyone wants to see. They will begin clearing schools over weekend, or call in maintenance crews to clear snow. But, if it snows heavily on Sunday night, don't expect everything to be cleared first thing on Monday morning.
- City of Burnaby has purchased more equipment and they have more crews, but if fall is heavy they can only do so much.
- **ACTION ITEM: Rhylin to scan and email Snow Plan out to parents.**

H1N1 Update

- Keith got some questions from parents about why the school not providing H1N1 updates to parents? The answer is: the school has no update to give. The Ministry controls the flow of information.
- What Keith can say is that when we compare Seaforth's absentee rate to other schools' – we are not hard hit. Other schools in North and South Burnaby have up to ½ school sick (including teachers) and they have not closed down those schools.
- Keith has also been asked by parents if there are confirmed cases of H1N1 at Seaforth. The answer is: Seaforth has no access to this information. The Ministry can't and won't provide this information to schools or school districts. Many doctors aren't even testing to learn what type of flu people are sick with.
- Parents have asked about hand-sanitizer too. The District will not supply hand sanitizer to schools for a few reasons: in Vancouver some kids were lighting themselves on fire using the alcohol-based sanitizer, & furthermore, the sanitizer can

provide a false sense of security. Seaforth is encouraging students to wash their hands.

All-day Kindergarten

- The District supplied feedback to the Ministry at the beginning of November. The proposal is to implement all-day kindergarten over a 2 year period and to do so in a way that would cost the least amount of money (e.g. use spare rooms where possible for all-day k). Year 2 schools will require a designated room - portables or new rooms.
- In Burnaby 29 schools were identified as being eligible for year 1 implementation – no additional money needed to build rooms. Once a school has implemented all day kindergarten, parents will not have the option to do ½ day.
- At Seaforth all rooms are being used, there are no spare rooms, thus Seaforth is a year 2 school. At Seaforth kids would still do ½ day kindergarten in 2009 – this may affect prospective kindergarten enrollment at Seaforth. If parents within Seaforth's catchment area decide take their kids to another school that does all-day kindergarten, they would have to meet the requirements for cross boundary enrollment.
- At Seaforth we will need portables or an extra room built in 2010. To-date there has been no announcement from the Ministry regarding resources and funding for these new all-day classes, nor whether they can find enough kindergarten teachers to fill all these new positions.
- Of the 29 schools that the District proposed for year 1 implementation, the Ministry will select which schools do all-day Kindergarten. They may only approve ½ because of funding. Note, there are 41 schools in Burnaby total (41st is just opening: SFU Elementary). Question from the audience: will SFU Elementary have an immersion program? Keith does not know.
- Comment from parent in the audience: the implementation of all-day kindergarten will need careful consideration – boundaries need to be established – need to take a lesson from the French Immersion implementation – this was very challenging.
- Keith points out that the catchment area for our immersion program was halved – priority will be given to those students in our designated area – siblings of children already attending the English and/or French Immersion program that find themselves outside of the catchment areas, for whatever reason, will be grandfathered into the programs. Another question: what are the boundaries of the catchment area for Seaforth? Keith recommends looking this information up on the District website.
- Point of Interest: Seaforth is often showcased in the District – on Nov. 19th the Chinese flag will be flown in front of our school (Seaforth has 3 flag poles – 1 for the Canadian flag, 1 for the BC flag and 1 for the country's of visiting dignitaries).
- On Nov. 19th - twenty senior teaching officials from mainland China are coming to Seaforth to see our programs and how we operate. This latest visit reconfirms that Seaforth Elementary has international recognition.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

DPAC report

- Nothing new to report

Hot Lunch Committee

- Report will be forthcoming

Traffic & Safety Committee

- Will be sending out a plan.

CPF Report – Siva Ramesh

- Had their annual general meeting Nov. 17th. Three people attended this meeting - poor turnout is concerning.
- In February 2010 there will be a Concours d'Art Oratoire (French speaking contest).

ACTION ITEM: Siva to email some information to Nandita/Lynne for inclusion in the PAC newsletter.

Health & Nutrition Committee

- Nothing new to report.
- Please note: all food sold at the school fully meets current nutritional standards.

Disaster Preparedness Committee

- Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lynne mentioned that there is a card for Nandita in the PAC mailbox that people can sign.
- Rhylin introduced: Family Movie Night in the Seaforth Gym. There will be dinner – BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs with all the fixings. And there will be 2 movies, with intermission, chairs & tables for the parents and a play area for the kids.
- **NOTE: Need volunteers to help run the concession.**

Meeting adjourned 7:58pm